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<u>CLAIMS</u>

What is claimed is:

1   1. A system for automatically matching patients to clinical trials comprising:

2   a database component operative to maintain:

3   one or more hospital patient database components and

4   their one or more hospital databases and their corresponding

5   plurality of patient names and their medical records, wherein

6   said hospital patient database components are in

7   communication with one or more medical practice database

8   components and their corresponding plurality of specialties

9   and their corresponding plurality of patient names and their

10   medical records,

11   a clinical studies database component and its

12   corresponding plurality of clinical studies;

13   a communications component to receive changes to said database

14   component; and

15   a processor programmed to:

16   periodically match compatible patients and clinical studies

17   without reliance on calculation of probability based

18   inferences of matching, and generate reports to matched

19   medical practices in said medical practice database

20   component having one or more patients matched to at least

21   one clinical study.

1   2. The system according to claim 1, wherein:

2   said database component identifies patient names associated with

3   each medical practice in said medical practice database component; and

4   said processor generates reports to medical practices having

5   identified patients, said reports including a listing of prospective patients for

6   at least one clinical trial.

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1 3.   The system according to claim 1, further comprising:

2   a searching component for searching said clinical studies database

3   component, and said one or more hospital patient database components,

4   wherein said communications component is adaptable to receive

5   searching order instructions.

1 4.   The system according to claim 3, wherein:

2   said processor is programmed with a rule-based system to vary

3   search parameter priority, wherein said search parameter priority is set to

4   search free text keywords or a phrase in a specified order.

1 5.   The system according to claim 4, wherein:

2   said search parameter priority is set to search free text keywords or

3   a phrase last.

1 6.   The system according to claim 1 wherein said processor is further

2   programmed to convert database information from incompatible operating

3   systems to the operating system of the processor.

1 7.   The system according to claim 1, wherein said clinical studies database

2   contains clinical trials selected from the group consisting of clinical drug

3   trials and clinical device trials.

1 8.   A computerized method for matching patients to clinical medical studies

2   comprising:

3   identifying a group of patients in a hospital database;

4   identifying at least one clinical study;

5   maintaining a database identifying each said patient in said hospital

6   database and each said clinical study; and

7   comparing said group of patients in said hospital database to said

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8   clinical studies and matching one or more patients in a hospital database to

9   one or more clinical trials without reliance on calculation of probability-

10   based inferences of matching.

1   9.   The method according to claim 8, further comprising:

2   maintaining said database to include a plurality of patient profiles

3   associated with a corresponding medical practice; and

4   notifying a medical practice when at least one of said patient profiles

5   matches the requirements of said clinical studies.

1   10.   The method according to claim 8, wherein said step of maintaining a

2   database further comprises converting data from an incompatible operating

3   system to the operating system of the processor.